

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BANGKO 08844 240750Z
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OPR-02 A-01 OC-06 CPR-01 USSS-00
SY-05 NSCE-00 SS-15 CCO-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 /043 W
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FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2131
INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY MANILA
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 8844

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP (MONDALE, WALTER F.)
SUBJECT: VICE PRESIDENT'S TRIP: VISIT TO DIN DAENG TRANSIT
CENTER

REF: (A) STATE 74852 (B) BANGKOK 8030 (C) STATE 73749
(D) BANGKOK 8633

1. RTG HAS NO PROBLEM IN INCLUDING VISIT TO DIN DAENG
TRANSIT CENTER LATER IN VICE PRESIDENT'S PROGRAM.
HOWEVER, DESPITE OUR EXPLANATIONS DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF
PROTOCOL WAS VISIBLY TAKEN ABACK WHEN WE SUGGESTED
VISIT BE SCHEDULED ENROUTE FROM AIRPORT TO HOTEL. HIS
IMMEDIATE REACTION WAS THAT VISIT TO CENTER AT THAT
TIME WAS NEITHER POSSIBLE NOR APPROPRIATE. HE STRONGLY
URGED US TO PROGRAM THE VISIT ON FRIDAY MORING,
APRIL 14. HE SAID THAT HE WOULD PREPARE A MEMO FOR
THE CHIEF OF PROTOCOL AND THE UNDER SECRETARY OF THE
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFARIS ON THE QUESTION BUT
INDICATED THAT THEY WOULD SHARE HIS VIEWS.

2. WE ARE EXTREMELY RELUCTANT TO PRESS RTG
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PAGE 02 BANGKO 08844 240750Z

FURTHER GIVEN MFA'S CLEAR RESISTANCE TO THE PROPOSAL.
FEAR WE WOULD ONLY WIN ON THIS ISSUE AT COST TO THE
VISIT'S OVERALL OBJECTIVES, WITH THAI VIEWING OUR INTERESTS
HERE AS OVERLY REFUGEE ORIENTED. RTG FULLY
UNDERSTANDS AND ACCEPTS VICE PRESIDENT'S WISH TO VISIT
REFUGEE CENTER IN COURSE OF VISIT. HOWEVER, THEY WOULD
NOT UNDERSTAND OUR INSISTENCE ON DOING SO BEFORE MEETING

WITH THEIR LEADERS. THERE IS ALSO POSSIBILITY THAT THIS
COULD AFFECT ATMOSPHERE FOR VICE PRESIDENT'S DISCUSSIONS
WITH THAI ON REFUGEES.

3. ALSO, SINCE ARRIVAL TIME NOW 1330 HOURS (REF C)
AND CALL ON PRIME MINISTER SET FOR 1500 HOURS, THERE
IS HARDLY SUFFICIENT TIME FOR PROGRAMMING BETWEEN
CONCLUSION OF THE AIRPORT CEREMONIES (WHICH TAKE 30
MINUTES) AND THE CALL ON THE PRIME MINISTER.

4. FINNALLY, WE DO NOT REPEAT NOT BELIEVE WE SHOULD
ATTEMPT TO SCHEDULE A VISIT TO DIN DAENG FOLLOWING
THE CALL ON THE KING ON APRIL 13. PROTOCOL ADVISED
AGAINST IT AND HAS WARNED THAT THE AUDIENCE WITH THE
KING WILL LAST AT LEAST ONE HOUR (1630-1730) AND
MIGHT WELL RUN LONGER. IT WOULD MEAN THE VICE
PRESIDENT'S ARRIVAL TIME AT CENTER WOULD BE
UNCERTAIN AND HE WOULD HAVE ONLY A BRIEF RESPITE AT THE
HOTEL PRIOR TO DEPARTURE FOR THE PRIME MINISTER'S
DINNER.

5. A FEASIBLE ALTERNATIVE SCENARIO TO THE SCHEDULE
PROPOSED REF B WOULD BE FOR THE VICE PRESIDENT TO
LEAVE THE HOTEL AT 0815, VISIT DIN DAENG FROM 0830
TO 0850, AND HOLD THE PRESS CONFERENCE AT THE
AIRPORT VIP LOUNGE FROM 0910 TO 0940. THIS WOULD BE
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PAGE 03 BANGKO 08844 240750Z

FULLY ACCEPTABLE TO THE THAI, IT WOULD ALLOW THE
VICE PRESIDENT TO VISIT THE REFUGEE CENTER PRIOR TO
HIS PRESS CONFERENCE; AND IT WOULD PROVIDE A GOOD
PRESS FOCUS FOR THE SECOND DAY OF THE VISIT (THE FIRST
DAY'S PUBLICITY WILL CENTER ON CALLS ON PRIME MINISTER
AND KING).

6. IT APPEARS REFS C AND D CROSSED. PLEASE NOTE
THAT AUDIENCE WITH THEIR MAJESTIES IS FIRM AT 1630
HOURS ON APRIL 13 AND CALL ON PRIME MINISTER AT 1500
HOURS.
WHITEHOUSE

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